

**“The Seafarer,”** translated by Burton Raffel  
**“The Wanderer,”** translated by Charles Kennedy  
**“The Wife’s Lament,”** translated by Ann Stanford  
**Selection Test B**

**Critical Reading** *Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The phrase “summer’s sentinel,” meaning a cuckoo, is an example of
  - A. a kenning.
  - B. a predicate.
  - C. a scop.
  - D. an exile.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What does the author of “The Wanderer” seem to miss most?
  - A. material possessions
  - B. religion
  - C. adventure
  - D. companionship
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. During this time in history, many groups of people left or were sent from their homes. Knowing this helps the reader understand why
  - A. each person was sent away.
  - B. each person was lonely.
  - C. the theme of “exile” was so common.
  - D. the lyric poem was popular.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which of the following best describes the speaker’s message at the end of “The Seafarer”?
  - A. Life at sea is both exhilarating and wearisome.
  - B. Gifts of gold for heaven will not redeem a sinful soul.
  - C. Those who walk with God shall be rewarded.
  - D. The earth no longer flourishes in glory.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Read this sentence from “The Wife’s Lament”:
 

Be he outlawed far in a strange folk-land—that my beloved sits under a rocky cliff rimed with frost a lord dreary in spirit.

What words or phrases help you to recognize the historical context of the line?

  - A. rocky cliff
  - B. outlawed; strange folk-land
  - C. dreary in spirit
  - D. my beloved
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The main theme of “The Wanderer” involves the
  - A. value of friendship.
  - B. need for safety.
  - C. importance of traditions.
  - D. pain of homelessness.

- \_\_\_ 7. In “The Wife’s Lament,” the wife assumes her husband is now  
 A. on an exciting adventure and does not think of her.  
 B. on his way home for a reconciliation.  
 C. married to someone else.  
 D. melancholy, as she is.
- \_\_\_ 8. Which of the following characteristics of Anglo-Saxon poetry is illustrated by “The Seafarer”?  
 A. celebration of heroic achievements  
 B. use of caesura  
 C. rhymed couplets  
 D. Caedmonian verse
- \_\_\_ 9. The first part of “The Seafarer” is the story of  
 A. a man’s life on the sea.  
 B. a sailor’s conversion to Christianity.  
 C. an exile’s lament for his country.  
 D. an ocean storm off the coast of England.
- \_\_\_ 10. The purpose of a caesura in a line of Anglo-Saxon poetry is to  
 A. remind a scop what to say.  
 B. provide a metaphorical name for something.  
 C. indicate a pause for breath.  
 D. mark the four beats in the line.
- \_\_\_ 11. What initiated the wife’s exile in “The Wife’s Lament”?  
 A. her husband’s long absence  
 B. a plot by her husband’s kinsmen  
 C. her traveling in spite of her husband’s wishes  
 D. the lord of that region issuing a formal decree
- \_\_\_ 12. When reading Anglo-Saxon poetry, how does recognizing historical context help a reader understand why certain things occur?  
 A. It gives the reader clues about the situation in the time period in which it was written.  
 B. It helps readers restate in their own words what the poem says.  
 C. It requires readers to use a dictionary to find the meaning of complicated words.  
 D. It shows the reader how important correct spelling and grammar is.
- \_\_\_ 13. What is the reason, despite all the hardships he’s suffered, that the narrator in “The Seafarer” continues to follow the life of the sea?  
 A. weary fatalism  
 B. passionate curiosity  
 C. religious vision  
 D. material need

- \_\_\_ 14. Which element in “The Seafarer” is most characteristic of lyric poetry?
- A. regular rhythm and rhyme
  - B. strong reliance on figurative language
  - C. intense personal emotion
  - D. narrative structure

### Vocabulary and Grammar

- \_\_\_ 15. Which is the best meaning of the italicized word in this sentence?
- The Wander’s *eagerness* to work again was overwhelming.
- A. enthusiasm
  - B. irritation
  - C. sorrow
  - D. fear
- \_\_\_ 16. Which words are the compound predicate in this excerpt?
- A brother / Opens his palms and pours down gold / On his kinsman’s grave
- A. “opens his palms and pours down gold”
  - B. “brother, opens his palms”
  - C. “pours down gold”
  - D. “pours down gold, on his kinsman’s grave”
- \_\_\_ 17. Which is the best meaning of the italicized word in the phrase “Are *fervent* with life”?
- A. frightful
  - B. cowardly
  - C. cautious
  - D. passionate
- \_\_\_ 18. Which sentence contains a compound predicate?
- A. “I grieved each dawn / wondered where my lord my first on earth might be.”
  - B. “I had few loved ones in this land / or faithful friends.”
  - C. “I am all longing.”
  - D. “The valleys are dark the hills high / the yard overgrown bitter with briars/a joyless dwelling.”

### Essay

19. A fundamental Anglo-Saxon belief is that human life is shaped by fate. How is this belief reflected in the poems in this section? Answer this question in an essay, giving examples from one or more of the poems to support your explanation.
20. Most of the poems and stories of the Anglo-Saxon period, were passed along by the oral tradition. In an essay, tell how the use of features such as the kenning and caesura may have helped maintain this oral tradition. Illustrate your explanation with examples from the selections.